

Remarks

The Office Action mailed April 1, 2003 has been received and the Examiner's comments carefully reviewed. Prior to entry of this paper, Claims 1-20 were pending. Claims 1-20 were rejected. In this paper, the specification has been amended, and Claims 1, 4, 7, 10, 13, 16, and 20 have been amended. Claims 1-20 are currently pending. No new subject matter has been added. For at least the following reasons, Applicants respectfully submit that the pending claims are in condition for allowance.

Rejection of Claims 1-20

Claim 1 as amended is submitted to be allowable at least because the prior art of record does not disclose “providing a physical environment that is configured to **support a local service activation management system**, wherein the local service activation management system is configured to **enable a core telecommunication system to provide local telephone service** to customers, and wherein the core telecommunication system is configured to provide telecommunication services outside of a service area that is local to the customers,” (emphasis added) as recited in Applicants’ Claim 1. Claim 1 as amended is also submitted to be allowable because the prior art of record does not disclose “supporting the managing hardware with support infrastructure such that **the support infrastructure is configured to enable the local service activation management system to be administered**,” (emphasis added) as recited in Applicants’ Claim 1.

Claims 7, 13, and 20 are submitted to be allowable at least for reasons analogous to those stated with regard to Claim 1. Claims 2-6 are submitted to be allowable at least because they depend on Claim 1, which is proposed to be allowable. Claims 8-12 are submitted to be allowable at least because they depend on Claim 7, which is proposed to be allowable. Claims 14-19 are submitted to be allowable at least because they depend on Claim 13, which is proposed to be allowable.

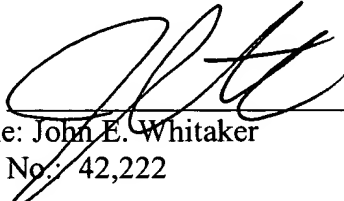
For at least the foregoing reasons, Claims 1-20 are submitted to be allowable, and notice to that effect is earnestly solicited.

Summary

It is respectfully submitted that each of the presently pending claims (Claims 1-20) are in condition for allowance and notification to that effect is requested. The Examiner is invited to contact Applicants' representative at the below-listed telephone number if it is believed that prosecution of this application may be assisted thereby. Although certain arguments regarding patentability are set forth herein, there may be other arguments and reasons why the claimed invention is patentably distinct. Applicants reserve the right to raise these arguments in the future.

Respectfully submitted,
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